

**REMARKS**

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Shinichi et al. (JP 11283127).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

REJECTION

The Office Action maintains the previous anticipatory rejection under 35 USC 102(a) over Shinichi.

Amended independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 8, using claim 1 as an example, provide “a point database recording a number of points accumulated for a customer, ***the points being issued to the customer by one or more a plurality of point-usable facilities*** and recording the number of points issued to the customer ***by each point-usable facility along with identifying information of each point-usable facility*** ... receiving the requested, from the customer, requests ***for a number of reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities*** from among the accumulated number of points and for issuing the ***generating recognition codes for the each requested number of reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities*** from among the accumulated number of points, in response to a request from the customer to use the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points.” For example, the present application FIGS. 6-12 and page 8, lines 21-30; page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 9; and page 11, lines 25-29; and page 15, lines 18-25 support the claim amendments.

Shinichi only discusses points issued by one point-usable facility. Thus, Shinichi cannot anticipate the claimed embodiments by failing to disclose, either expressly or inherently, “***the points being issued to the customer by one or more a plurality of point-usable facilities***

and recording the number of points issued to the customer **by each point-usable facility along with identifying information of each point-usable facility.**

Further, in the Office Action page 3, item 4, which is the Response to Arguments, the Office Action alleges that Shinichi's identification data can meet the claimed "**recognition code issued ... in response to use the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points,**" because allegedly Shinichi issues tickets with the identification information based upon a requested number of points read from the IC card, the ticket issued is from the points redeemed or requested by the user." It is readily apparent that Shinichi's card identification information discussed in paragraph 8 cannot meet the amended claimed "**generating recognition codes for the each requested number of reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities from among the accumulated number of points,** in response to a request from the customer to use the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points." Nowhere does Shinichi discuss having a plurality of IC card identification information or its IC card identification information being generated for each issued ticket 2, because Shinichi's IC card identification information is from the IC card but not from the ticket 2 (see Shinichi paragraphs 8 and 14).

The Office Action also relies upon Shinichi paragraph 25 and alleges Shinichi's ticket management data 2b of ticket 2 (FIG. 1) can meet the claimed "**recognition code issued for the requested number of reserved points.**" However, in contrast to Shinichi, the amended claimed embodiments provide "**generating recognition codes for the each requested number of reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities from among the accumulated number of points.**" Shinichi does not generate any recognition codes, but uses the ticket management data 2b preprinted on the paper tickets 2 (see paragraph 11 and FIG. 2 of Shinichi).

Further, Shinichi cannot anticipate the claimed embodiments by failing to disclose, either expressly or inherently, the claimed "**receiving the requested, from the customer, requests for a number of reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities** from among the accumulated number of points" (the present application FIGS. 6, 8 and 9) and "**generating recognition codes for the each requested number of reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities from among the accumulated number of points,** in response to a request from the customer to use the requested number of reserved

points from among the accumulated number of points" (the present application FIG. 7), because Shinichi is directed to issuing tickets for only one point-useable facility, but not the claimed embodiments "**receiving the requested, from the customer, requests for a number of reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities.**"

Further, Shinichi is silent on how the management section 70 manages the management data for the issued tickets (see, for example, paragraph 38). Therefore, Shinichi cannot anticipate the claimed embodiments by failing to disclose, either expressly or inherently, the claimed "**recording the issued recognition code along with the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points in the use management database identifying information of the customer, the requested numbers of reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities from among the accumulated number of points, the recognition codes generated for each requested number of reserved points, and use status of each requested number of reserved points, according to the customer requests for the number of reserved points.**" See, for example, the present application FIGS. 7 and 12. For example, Shinichi is silent on the claimed "**recording ... recognition codes generated for each requested number of reserved points.**" For example, Shinichi is silent on the claimed "**use status of each requested number of reserved points.**"

Further, Shinichi cannot anticipate the claimed embodiments by failing to disclose, either expressly or inherently, the claimed "**means for transmitting data of a point use ticket, ticket comprising the each requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points and the each recognition code issued generated for the each requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points, to the customer terminal device for use of providing the point use ticket by the customer,**" because in Shinichi the ticket management data 2b is preprinted on the paper tickets 2. See, for example, the present application FIGS. 10 and 11.

Dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from the independent claims.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, it is believed the claims are in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

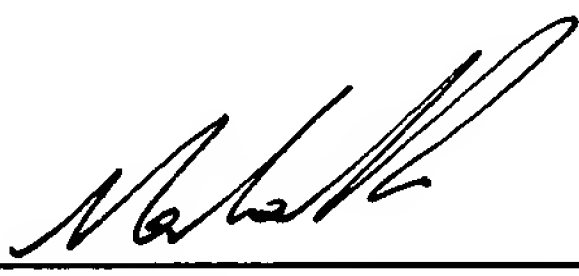
**CONCLUSION**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,  
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:   
Mehdi Sheikerz  
Registration No. 41,307

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501